

REMARKS

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 5, 2004 (Paper No. 7). Claims 1 to 20, 22 to 24 and 26 to 40 are in the application, of which Claims 1 to 18 and 34 to 37 have been withdrawn from consideration. Of the claims under consideration, Claims 19, 23, 24 and 38 to 40 are independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 25 to 28 and 31 to 33 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Based on this indication, all of the remaining and newly-added independent claims include the features of Claim 25, namely adding a calculated correction parameter as tag information to a file of the image data. Applicants submit that all of the independent claims are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Specifically, amended independent Claims 19 and 23 now include the features of Claim 25. Applicants submit that Claims 19 and 23 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Claim 21 has been canceled.

Dependent Claim 25 has been canceled and its features have been added to amended independent Claim 24 as if Claim 25 were rewritten in independent form. Applicants submit that Claim 24 is in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Likewise, Claim 26 has been amended to be dependent from amended Claim 24. As such, Applicants submit that Claim 26 is in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

New independent Claim 38 is directed to an apparatus implementing the method of amended Claim 19. As such, Applicants submit that Claim 38 is in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

New independent Claim 39 is directed to a method implemented by the apparatus claimed in amended Claim 24. Therefore, Applicants submit that Claim 39 is in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

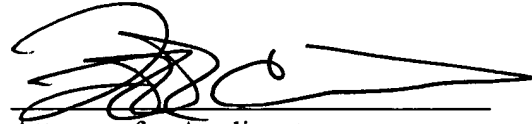
Claim 40 is directed to a computer-readable storage medium including program codes for image processing corresponding to amended Claim 24. As such, Applicants submit that Claim 40 is in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The remaining dependent claims are each dependent from an amended independent claim as discussed above and are; therefore, believed to be in condition for allowance for the same reasons. In addition, because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, and no other matters being raised in the Office Action, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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